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COUNTRY Eastern Germany

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[redacted]

On 16 July 1952, a directive issued to all newspapers in Eastern Germany by Gerhard Eisler, chief of the Amt fuer Information, demanded that, effective immediately, the recruiting campaign for the Volkspolizei be discontinued. Newspapers bound by this directive included the Junge Welt, official Freie Deutsche Jugend (Free German Youth) (FDJ) publication, which previously had conducted an intensive recruiting campaign for enlistment with the Volkspolizei. Eisler's directive stirred up much speculation regarding its objective. The employees of the Amt fuer Information believed that when the Government Decree on Service for Germany is issued it will contain the key to Eisler's directive. *

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[redacted] Comment. It is believed that, predominantly for reasons pertaining to international policy and, specifically, the forthcoming Four-Power talks, emphasis is placed at present on propaganda for the para-military Service for Germany, rather than the recruiting campaign for the Volkspolizei or, eventually, the National Army. Soviet policy has always made a point of not violating certain obligations and, in this instance, may again seek not to violate the Potsdam agreement or, at least, not before, in Soviet opinion, the opposition does. It was noticed that Eisler's directive was not generally observed by newspapers in Eastern Germany, although the propaganda campaign for the Volkspolizei and, thus, the National Army has recently been less intensive than the propaganda for the Service of Germany.

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